

For the past two years, the Senate has recognized the second Sunday in December as National Children's Memorial Day. And last year the House passed a resolution similar to what we are considering here today. This concurrent resolution expresses the sense of Congress that a National Children's Memorial Day should be established and asks the President to issue a proclamation calling on Americans everywhere to observe ceremonies and activities which serve to remember these dearly departed souls and the grieving families and friends.

I can assure you, to those families who have lost loved ones, the support that we show here, this simple and easy resolution will go a long way in helping them cope with their loss. It is important for families who have suffered such a loss to know that they are not alone. Please help me in passing this joint resolution and express your support for this worthy and noble cause.

We carry the responsibility to honor and remember those who have died before their time. And as compassionate, concerned citizens, one of the best actions we can take is to honor the souls of the dearly departed and to support those who are left behind.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in passing this measure. Please show your support to bereaved parents across America.

**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO LTC THOMAS J. LEE, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE**

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding officer in the Army National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Lee recently transferred from his position as the Plans and Action Support Officer in the National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Program.

Tom Lee began his service to country when he enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1968 as a weather observer. After tours at Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, and Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, he entered Officer Candidate School in the New York Army National Guard as a field artillery officer in 1982.

Tom Lee first became active in the counterdrug effort when he left his assignment as Chief of the National Guard Protocol Branch to become the National Guard Counter Narcotics Liaison with the Headquarters of the Sixth Army at the Presidio in San Francisco, California in May, 1994. He then served as the Operations Officer for the Southwest Region, and as Chief of the Southeast Region Branch in the National Guard Bureau's Counterdrug Program before assuming his position as Plans, Action Officer in October, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, in each of these counterdrug positions, Lieutenant Colonel Lee has made a personal impact in an ongoing struggle that, as a nation, we have yet to win. He has labored passionately to educate Members of Congress and their staff members on the unique abilities of the Army and Air National Guard in stemming the plague of illegal drugs from our neighborhoods. Our nation is strong-

er today because his sound counsel, his practical knowledge and his tireless pursuit of the possible.

Lieutenant Colonel Lee has received numerous, well-deserved, military awards and decorations for his service to the nation. No award is more appropriate, nor more fulfilling for him, than the knowledge that his efforts give America's youth a better chance at a drug-free future.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Lee will demonstrate the same dedication and high competence in his new instructional position at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas that has been his trademark with the National Guard Bureau. I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to this citizen-soldier and patriot. We thank him, and wish him the very best in his continued service as an officer in the Army National Guard.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE FEATURES PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000**

**HON. CURT WELDON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, in introducing the National Defense Features Program Enhancement Act of 2000, a bill we intend to push to enactment next year if the Government of Japan, the Japanese vehicle manufacturers, and the Japanese carriers continue to undermine our efforts to breathe life into the National Defense Features program.

We created the NDF program because we believed it would be the most cost-effective way to augment the substantial investment that is being made in new ships by the Navy. Having seen one very attractive proposal by which vessels would be built to carry cars from Japan to the United States and refrigerated products on the return leg, we authorized and appropriated funds in the mid-1990s to jump start the program. Since then, we have continued to look for ways to make the program as attractive as possible to companies to build ships in the United States for operation in the United States-Japan and other trades. In just the past week, for example, Congress approved as part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for FY 2001 a provision that would expand the Secretary of Defense's authority to finance appropriate projects under the NDF program.

In authorizing this program, we had hoped that the Government of Japan in particular would find mutual defense benefits in promoting it. We have written the Prime Minister, we have met with the Ambassador, we have received expressions of support from the Vice President of the United States and our Secretary of Defense, and yet nothing seems to have come of our efforts so far.

Unfortunately, we have regularly heard the same response. The Government of Japan insists that the decision to employ NDF tonnage is strictly a matter for the vehicle manufacturers and shipping companies to make since it involves a commercial matter. They in turn have argued that, since the program focuses

on mutual defense, the Government should take the lead. As so often happens, no one has been willing to step forward to take the initiative.

As our colleagues can no doubt appreciate, our patience is beginning to wear thin. I understand our able Secretary of Defense has recently indicated the importance of the NDF program in discussions with his Japanese counterpart. Perhaps we will finally see some movement. If not, the time to legislate will have arrived.

Our bill is designed to create the necessary incentives for the Government of Japan and the vehicle and shipping interests to promote the NDF program. If the Federal Maritime Commission finds that vessels that would be built in the United States under the NDF program are not employed in the particular sector of a trade route in the foreign commerce of the United States for which they are designed to operate and if that sector of the trade route has been dominated historically by citizens of an allied nation, then the Commission shall take action to counteract the restrictive trade practices that have led to this situation.

We trust all concerned appreciate our determination to bring the NDF program to life.

**COMMENDING THE RIVERSIDE NATIONAL CEMETERY SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the "all volunteer" Riverside National Cemetery Support Committee. President Dwight D. Eisenhower once remarked that, "Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America." The volunteerism shown by the Cemetery Support Committee, for the past 22 years, is a prime model of President Eisenhower's belief.

The Cemetery Support Committee was established in 1978 with a simple mission, but one with heart behind it, to preserve and enhance the Riverside National Cemetery as a National Shrine. What has come to pass is no less than amazing.

The Riverside National Cemetery is currently the second largest resting place in our national cemetery system, with 125,000 men and women of our armed forces standing silent vigil with us today. Ten short years into the new millennium, it is expected to be the largest cemetery in the national system. And in six decades it will have more than 1.4 million honored veterans. That will make Riverside National Cemetery larger than the Arlington National Cemetery—the most widely recognized, which is already at capacity with a quarter of a million veterans.

The Cemetery Support Committee's work has made Riverside National Cemetery much more than the facts stated above—they have created a solemn historical place where Americans today and tomorrow can go to reflect upon the memory and sacrifices of past and present generations who fought for America, democracy and freedom. Four to five thousand people each Memorial Day and Veterans Day attend ceremonies organized by the Committee and held at the Riverside National